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An amendment has been attached to President Barack Obama's economic stimulus package that would keep Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich from accessing any of the funds, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-10th, reported.

The measure driven by Kirk and U.S. Rep. Bill Foster, D-14th, directs Illinois' share of the stimulus to the General Assembly until Blagojevich is removed from office, Kirk stated.

"As the Congress prepares to approve billions of dollars for Illinois, we must ensure the governor is not allowed to use these funds to give himself or others a parting gift," he stated.

Added Foster, "The allegations that have been made against Gov. Rod Blagojevich call into question his fitness to distribute federal funds in an effective, fair and ethical manner."

There are broad powers for the Congress to attach conditions to federal spending to states, Kirk said, citing the Congressional Research Service.

In the 104th Congress, which met 1995-96, Congress enacted the Brown amendment allocating funding for needy families to the respective legislatures -- not the governors. Additionally, state supreme courts upheld state legislative control for federal block grant funds. In a 1977 ruling, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that the legislature has ultimate authority to appropriate federal block grants.

Blagojevich today told reporters outside his Chicago home that his upcoming Senate impeachment trial is a "sham."

Blagojevich has been charged by federal prosecutors with abusing his power by attempting to

sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Obama, and leveraging other actions in exchange for campaign cash.